

# OUR SCHOOL

Madhuri Purandare



JYOTSNA PRAKASHAN

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Original Text and Illustrations

**Madhuri Purandare**

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Now my little one  
is going to grow up  
fast and go to  
school one day!  
Right?



**JYOTSNA PRAKASHAN**



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The grown-ups are always telling us about school,  
even when we are babies.

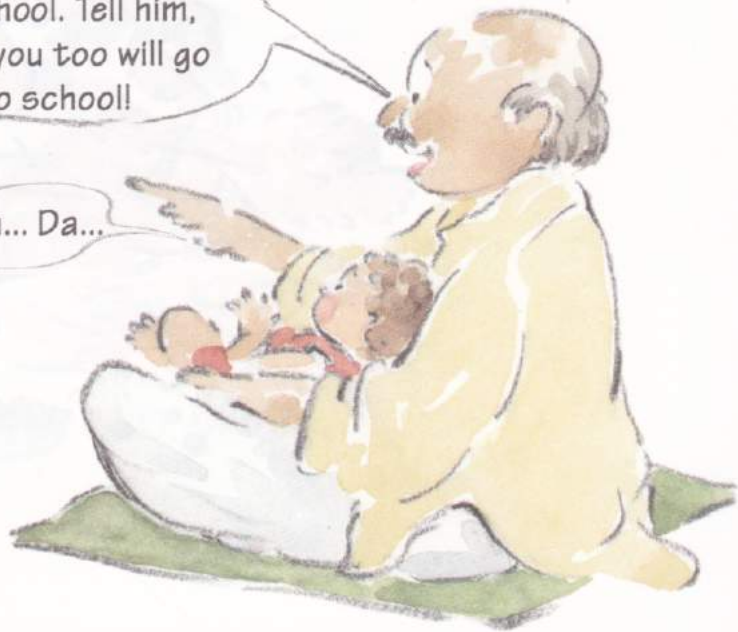
Now my little one  
is going to grow up  
fast and go to  
school one day!  
Right?





See, Dada is going to school. Tell him, soon, you too will go to school!

Da... Da...



Then one day we too feel like going to school.



And then one day....

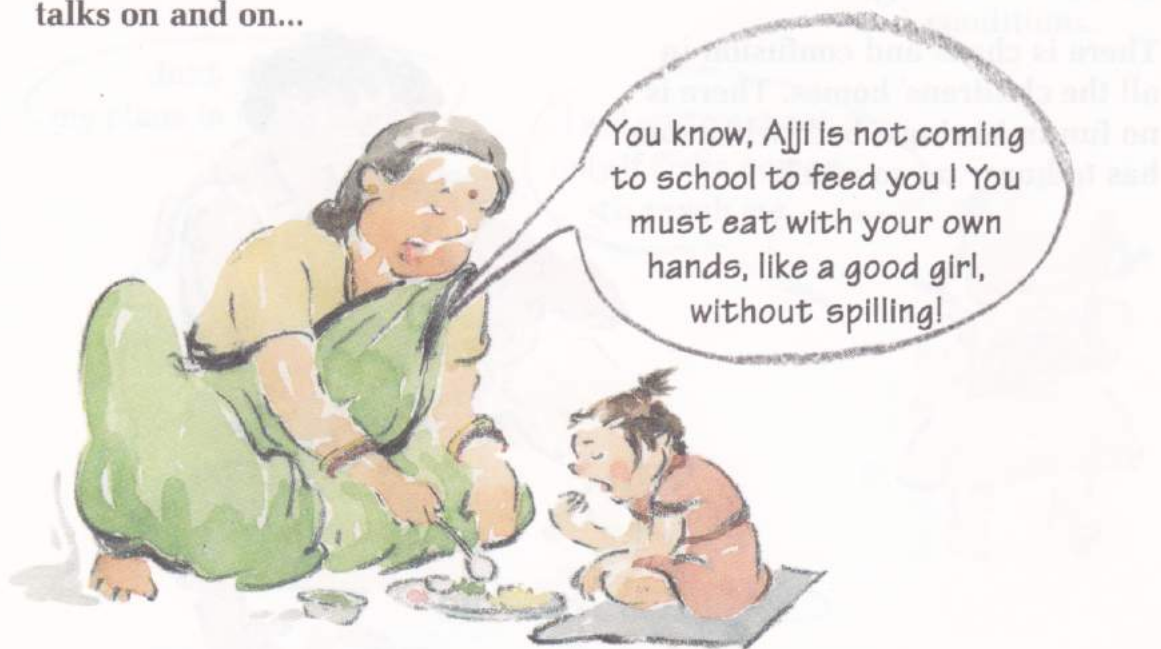


**Nikhil's Baba  
takes Nikhil  
to the market.**

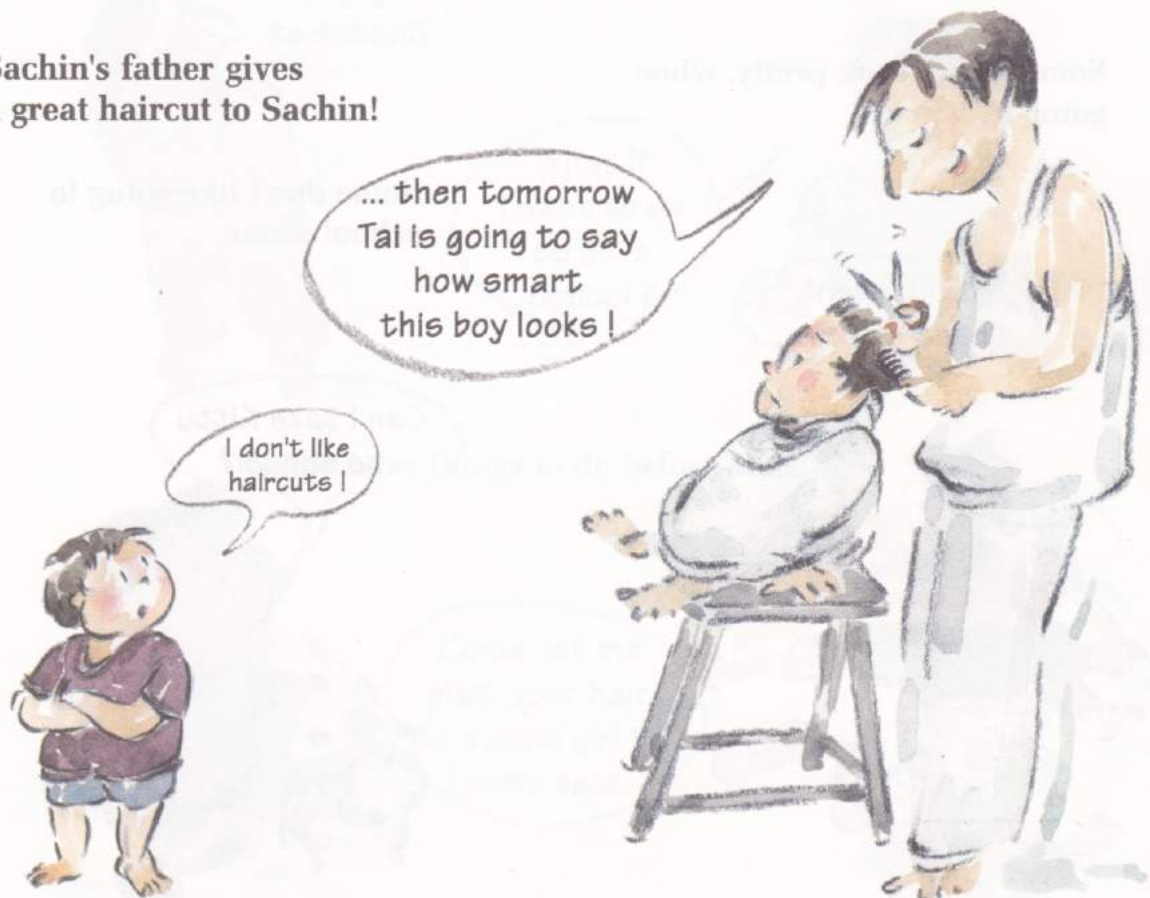
**Avanti's Ai gets her  
clothes ready.**



At dinner, Netra's Ajji talks on and on...

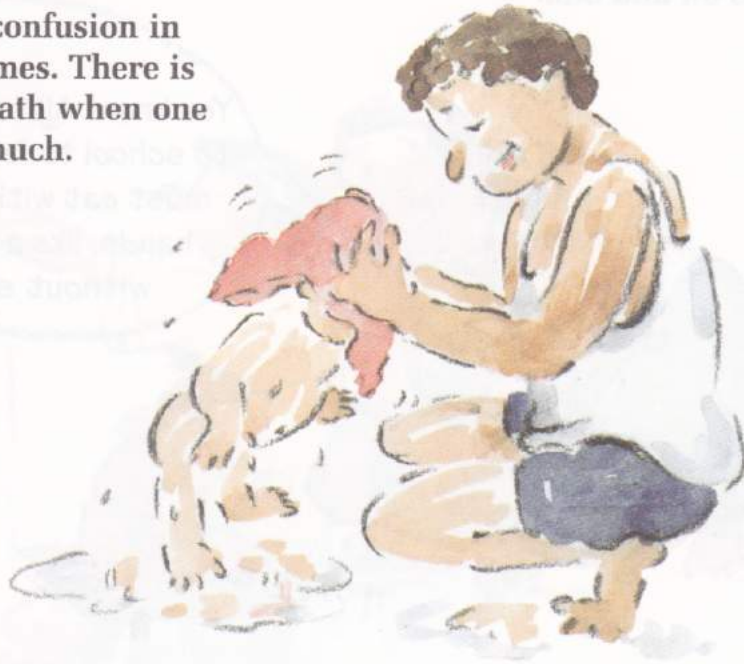


Sachin's father gives a great haircut to Sachin!



In the morning...

There is chaos and confusion in all the childrens' homes. There is no fun in having a bath when one has to hurry up so much.



Some like to look pretty, when going to school.

Some don't like going to school alone.

I don't want these shoes....



Can I take Kittu to school?



Some are not in a hurry.

Just wait...  
my plane is flying high...!



I will go to school  
only if Baba comes  
to reach me.

Some have terms  
and conditions.



Some have questions.

Why go  
to school?



What if  
I want to do  
su su in  
school?



Some have things to do before starting.

Come, let me  
plait your hair.  
Be a good girl till  
I come back.



I don't like  
being good!



On the way to school...

**Sampada's Baba takes her on a bicycle!**

I am not going to carry you.  
You are a big girl now!  
Everyone will laugh  
at you in school!



**Manasi cannot understand  
why Ai cannot carry her.**

Let them  
laugh!

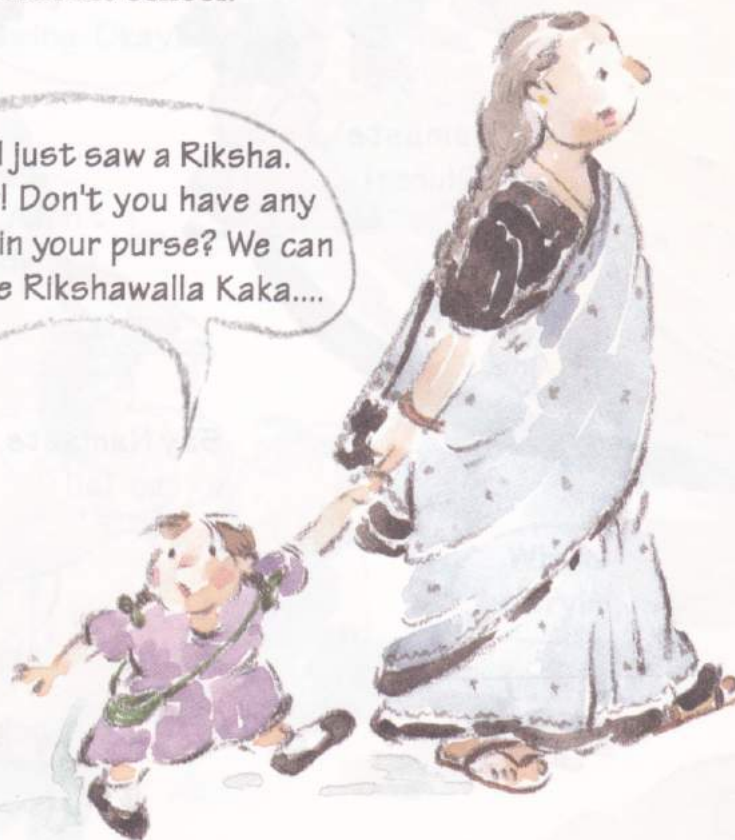


Vikram's Ai takes him  
on the scooter.



Ketaki does not give up, trying to convince  
Aiji, till she reaches school.

Aiji, I just saw a Riksha.  
Really! Don't you have any  
money in your purse? We can  
tell the Rikshawalla Kaka....



In school...

So many children with  
their Ai, Baba, Ajji....  
At the entrance  
Tai welcomes the children.

You know,  
when I was your age,  
I too was in this school

Ameya Dhanagre,  
on the first floor...

Namaste  
Dhiren!

Say Namaste  
to Tai!





On the first day  
all the children get  
to know their own Tais.



Janhavi's Tai is tall.



Shreyas' Tai is short.



Pankaj's Tai wears glasses!



Swapnil's Tai sings and  
dances so well!



**Vrinda's Tai is  
also called Vrinda.**



**Shweta's Tai has long hair.  
One feels like pulling her plait.**



**Neha's Tai wears  
pretty clothes  
and flowers in her hair.**



**Akshay's Tai makes the  
children laugh.**

Beautiful pictures and masks on the wall. Some schools have a rope ladder, hanging from the ceiling. One can swing from it like a monkey.

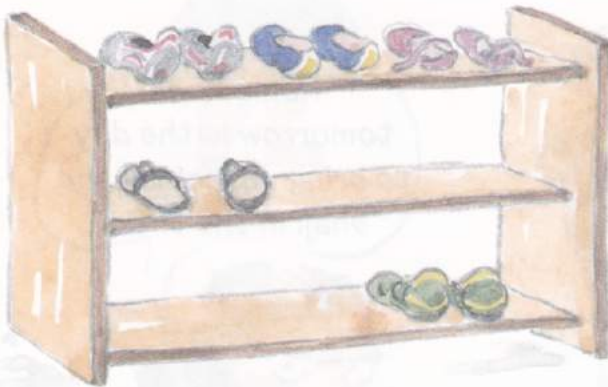
A gingerbread house with a red and white striped roof, yellow walls, and a red and white striped awning over the entrance. The house is decorated with a red and white striped border along the base and a red and white striped border along the roofline. The entrance is a simple archway. The house is set on a green base representing grass.



16



Even the hooks to hang the tiffin boxes, are pretty and colourful.



The shoes and chappals are to be kept on the stand outside the class.



So many picture books and story books on the shelves.



Some schools have great big baskets full of toys.



Some schools have small basins for washing hands.

School is over on the first day. The children are in a hurry to go home, but the Tais still have something more to say.



Everyone must wear the uniform on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Remember, tomorrow is the day to bring chapattis and bhaji in the tiffin.



Reva, tomorrow  
bring a handkerchief  
to wipe your nose.



Angad, you have  
forgotten to wear  
your shoes.



Next day...

Some are not very clear  
that they have to go  
to school everyday.

But I have been to  
school yesterday!

For some, the idea of going to the  
same school everyday, seems odd.

Are we going to  
another school  
today?

In school, some children are still a bit confused.



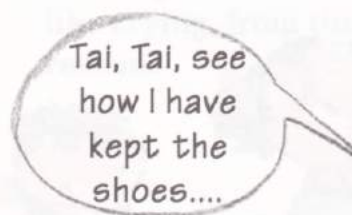
Some create such a  
hullabaloo with their  
howling!



Some remember correctly, what was said by Tai  
the day before, but others have to be reminded.



"Ruta, what did I say yesterday?  
Where does one do su su?"



In school one cannot always do what one wants, when one wants.



"Siddhi, read the book later."



"Nihar, where did you pick up that car? Keep it back in place...."



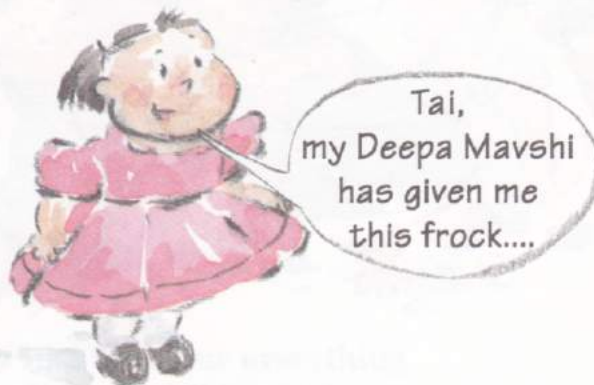
"Navani, eat the tiffin in the break. Not now..."



By and by everyone starts enjoying school.  
Some are even eager to go to school.



One becomes friends with Tai.  
Everything has to be told to Tai.  
Everything has to be shown to Tai.



One gets new friends.

Actually, some like school, yet feel like crying, from time to time, without reason.



In school, some like some things.  
Others like other things.



Some like to  
exercise.

Some like others' tiffins  
better than theirs.



Some like to dance.



Some enjoy a good fight.



Some like listening to stories.





Some like to observe things from unusual places.



Some like to do everything with their friends.



Some like to colour everything around them while painting.



Some like to build blocks.



Some like to wait, for school to get over.



When school is over...

All the children rush around  
looking for Ai, Baba, who have  
come to pick them up,  
or else the Rikshawalekaka.




Kaka, Oh, Kaka,  
please drop me to my  
Atya today.




I don't want to come  
with you. I want to go  
in the Riksha like them....





Al, see,  
this is Siddharth,  
my friend....



Baba, see I got hurt,  
still I didn't cry.

Sometimes those who  
come to pick up are late.  
Then the children who are  
waiting get quite worried.



After reaching home...

Some don't like to speak much about school. They feel the grown-ups will not understand anything.



What did you do in school today?

Nothing.

Harsha, does the school have a holiday on Monday?  
What did Tai say?

What is this! Why didn't you finish your tiffin? And where is the water bottle?

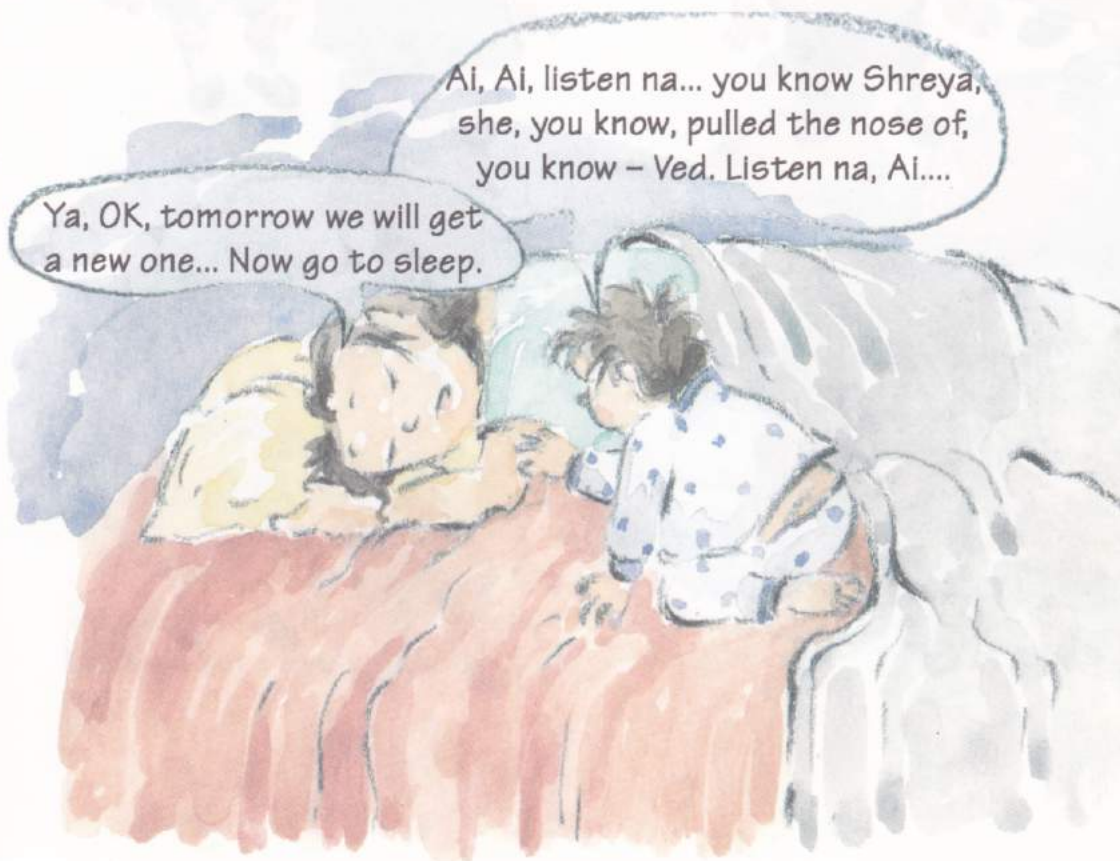
Don't know!



Some, however, like to tell everything.



Some like to talk anytime and all the time, about school.



Soon the uniforms are ready.  
Each school has a different uniform.



There is so much work in school  
and so much to study....



We have to make clay figures.



Tai performs with the puppets,  
then we have to chat about it.

Sometimes there is Dahihandi in school.  
When the clay pot is broken,  
there is a shower of sweets,  
chocolates, wild berries and  
other such goodies.



Some schools have blackboards  
all along the walls. Children can draw on them  
with coloured chalks, anytime.

Some schools have small gardens, where children look after the plants.



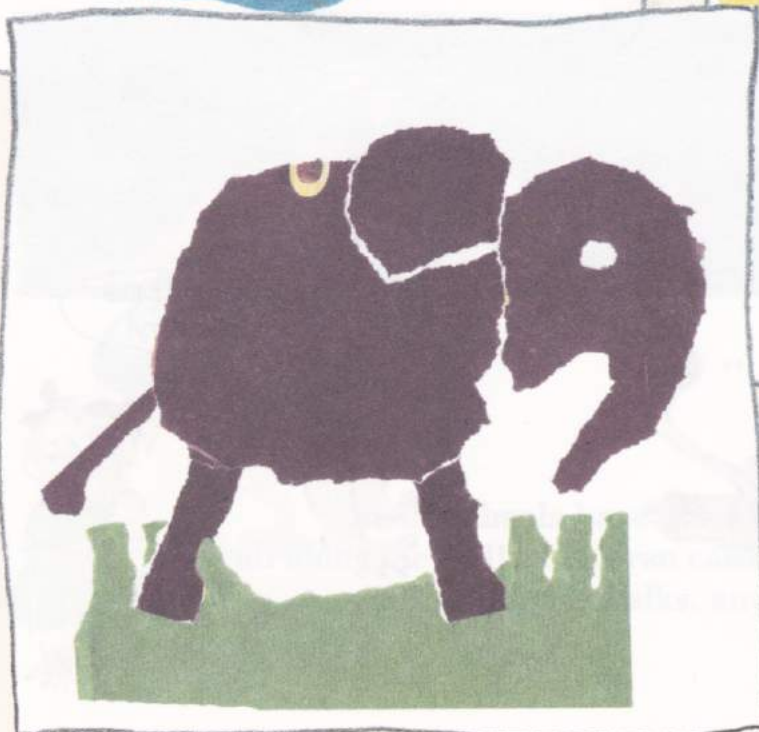
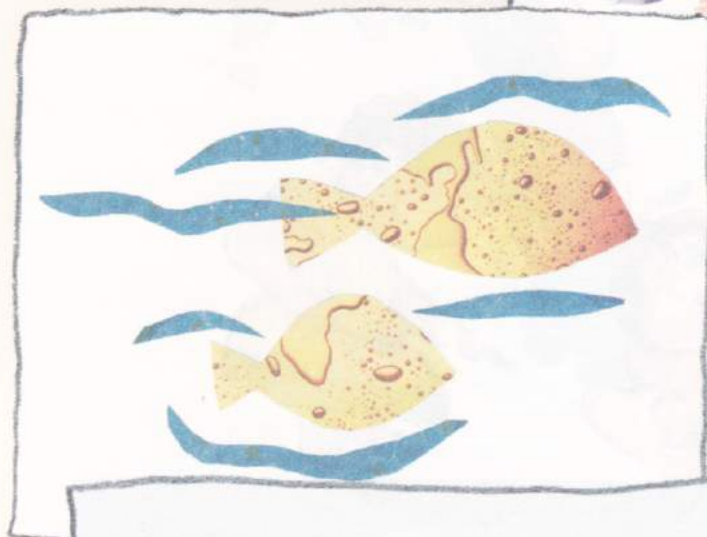
Sometimes there are special visitors for the children.

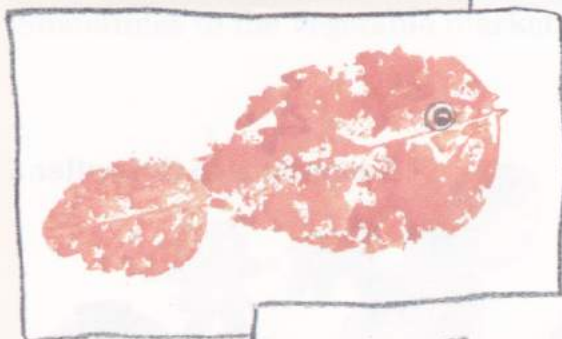


Sometimes some guests maybe a little scary....



When the children  
work hard, Tai says,  
"Well done!"  
And then she puts up  
all the lovely things  
made by the children,  
on the wall.





The children are very happy  
when Tai takes the class on a picnic.



Sometimes by the riverside...

Sometimes to the potter...





Sometimes to the vegetable market...



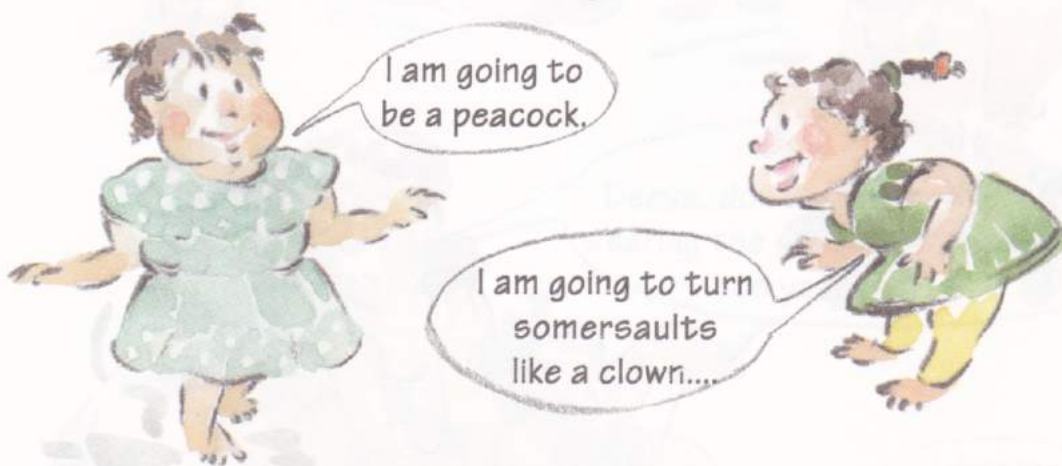
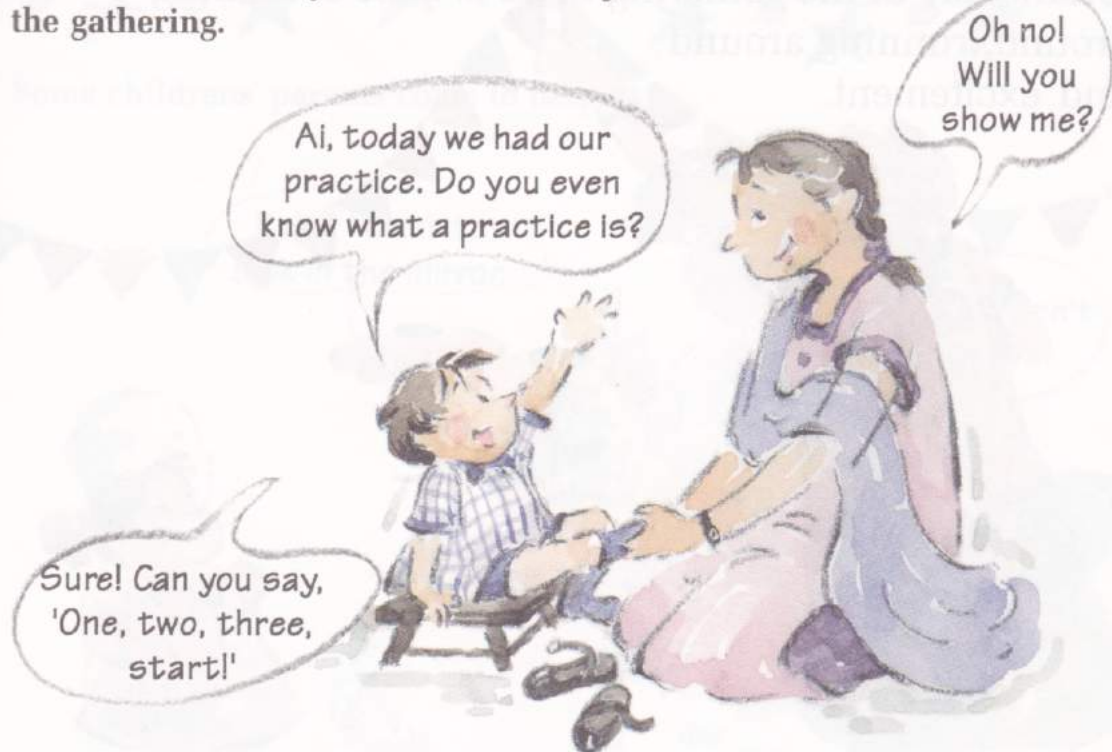
Sometimes to see a toy exhibition...

Annual Gathering...

A new fun thing starts in school.



For the next few days the children only talk about the gathering.



On the day of the gathering there is a lot of rushing around, running around and excitement.



Some Tais put up garlands and pictures.



Some childrens' parents come to help.



All the Tais are calling each other and running after the children.



Deepatal, where are Shreeyans and Madhura from your class?

Samad, your shoes...



Some Tais don't know WHAT they are doing.



The children's programme starts.



Seeing the crowd in front, some start crying.



While one recites poetry in style,  
the other cannot remember a thing.

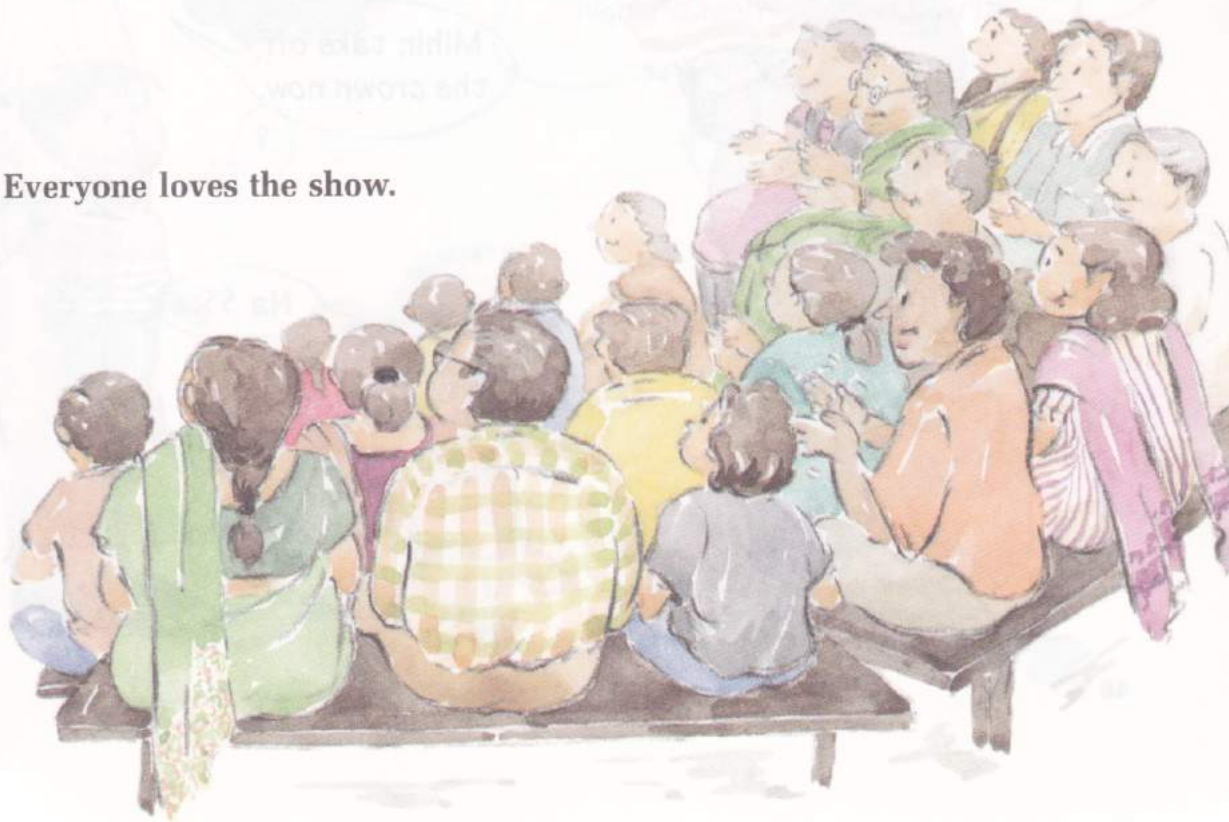
Some perform  
the fisherwomen's dance.



The farmer driving  
bullocks is busy  
hanging on to his  
turban.



Everyone loves the show.



After the programme...



This is how everyone starts liking school.  
Suddenly one day Tai says...

The holidays start  
from tomorrow. Who  
is going to do what  
in the holidays?

?

After the holidays you will go to the  
higher class! New class, new Tai...  
great fun!

?



This is how everyone starts liking school. Suddenly one day, they say, 'I don't like school!'

I don't like fun!



I don't like holiday!



I don't like higher class!



WE JUST LIKE OUR SCHOOL!!!



Our little ones take their first steps  
within the safe environs of their homes,  
utter their first words, try to understand  
the little world around them  
through wondering eyes  
and searching hands.

Then one day, they enter the big world outside the  
house holding on to our hands. They begin the  
journey towards the creation of their own  
independent world.

Our children start going to school.

How is this new world? A little fear, a little  
pressure, a lot of excited enquiry... for the little  
ones... and for us....



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